(a) the number of cases of swine flu that has come into light in the country and the number of persons coming from abroad in whom symptoms of swine flu have been found till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that seven children in a school near Jalandhar have been found H1N1 positive; and

(c) if so, the arrangements made by Government to provide treatment to the affected persons and the measures taken to prevent the expansion of virus?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There have been 153 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 [earlier referred as Swine Flu] in the country out of which 142 are travel related cases.

(b) and (c) Yes. Fourteen of the 31 children who visited USA showed symptoms of the disease. Seven tested positive. They were isolated in the civil hospital, Jalandhar. The central rapid response team and the Regional Director of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were deputed immediately to Jalandhar to institute containment measures. Adequate quantity of Oseltamivir and personal protective equipments were made available to the State Government. Punjab Government traced 296 family and social contacts and put them on preventive medication with oseltamivir. Active surveillance was done in the community to detect cases of influenza like illness. All the seven children who tested positive were cured. No further cases among the remaining children or the contacts have been reported.

CGHS and ESI like facilities to common man

813. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would agree to introduce a new scheme like C.G.H.S. and E.S.I, under which common people can have treatment and medicines on payment of monthly subscription; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] has prepared a framework for introducing health insurance scheme for the BPL population. The States have been requested to prepare need based, community oriented, innovative and flexible insurance policies for implementation on pilot basis.

Further, Ministry of Labour and Employment has rolled out from 1st April 2008 "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana [RSBY] in a phased manner in most of the States. The main aim of the Scheme is to provide Health Insurance Cover to the BPL workers and their families on the unorganized sector and to improve access of BPL families to quality medical care for treatment of diseases involving hospitalization and surgery through an identified network of health care providers on cashless basis.